

M.L. RICHARDSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud M.L. Richardson for her outstanding service to our community.

M.L. Richardson has served the Jefferson County community in numerous ways since 1994. Currently, M.L. is serving as the Director of Strategy and Sustainable Development for two area corporations.

M.L. Richardson's dedication directly benefits her community with continued service to Jefferson County through countless volunteer hours spent for area organizations, serving on area Chambers of Commerce and boards including the Jefferson County School District's Bond-oversight committee, the Jefferson Economic Council, Community First Foundation, the Golden Civic Foundation and many others. Additionally, M.L. works to raise funds for area charities such as the Mother Cabrini Shrine.

In the words of one of her colleagues, "M.L. is a woman who exhibits leadership through her everyday actions and has a professional and entrepreneurial spirit that has been proven over and over through countless accomplishments."

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to M.L. Richardson for her recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING SSGT. SHAWN MICHAEL ROBERTS, UNITED STATES ARMY FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SGT. AUDIE MURPHY AWARD PROGRAM

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate a fine Alaskan soldier—SSgt. Shawn Michael Roberts. SSgt. Roberts has recently been inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Award program in the Army. Sgt. Audie Murphy, for whom this award was named, was a famous Hollywood actor, as well as the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II. Sgt. Murphy was a courageous warrior and received every decoration of valor our country has to offer, including two Silver Stars, three Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor. In short, this induction is one of the highest honors in the Army and reflects the comparable level of commitment and dedication that has been exemplified in SSgt. Roberts' performance.

It is little wonder, in light of his many accomplishments, that Shawn has received this award. Since entering active duty in December 2001 SSgt. Roberts has served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as one tour in Bosnia. During his tenure with the U.S. Army, Roberts has received numerous medals of commendation, including the Iraq Campaign Medal with three campaign stars.

Alaskans are proud of our military heritage and I am proud that our country has such noble defenders. I thank SSgt. Roberts for his service to our country and I congratulate him on his induction into this award program.

**AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to oppose the amendment offered by my colleague, Representative BART STUPAK. I know that he is following his own conscience, but I want to preserve the right of women nationwide to follow their conscience as well. I support a woman's right to be either for or against abortion. The decision is a private one and it is a matter of faith as well as a matter of conscience, and it is supported by our Constitution.

This amendment is not about federal funding for abortion . . . the current version of the bill and federal law, the Hyde Amendment, already prohibit spending tax dollars to finance abortions. This amendment goes beyond that language. It prohibits private health insurance plans that receive even one dollar of federal funding to offer abortion services to any of their customers. This eliminates coverage for an important health service that millions of women currently have. This amendment leaves women even worse off than they are now. I cannot support such all-encompassing language.

There is a certain irony here that demonstrates how prejudiced this amendment is toward women. Insurance plans would allow a man to obtain Viagra and cause an unwanted pregnancy, but it penalizes women for becoming pregnant.

Insurance is intended to cover the unexpected. Yet, this amendment would deny women the right to purchase their own coverage as part of a regular insurance plan. It will heap an ugly punishment upon those who often times can least afford it, and it will push women into the past of back-alley butchers.

Today women are entitled under the law to a safe abortion. It is estimated that in California before the Roe v. Wade decision, about 100,000 illegal abortions were performed each year. Abortion was the most common single cause of maternal deaths in California prior to 1973. We should not turn back the clock. As we work to provide universal health for all our citizens, women should be protected. This amendment does nothing to advance this and I ask my colleagues to defeat it.

**AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. AARON SCHOCK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, this past Monday night I decided I could better serve the

citizens of the 18th district of Illinois by hosting a town hall meeting to listen to their thoughts and concerns with the Speaker's health care proposal, rather than rush back to Washington to vote on a resolution honoring man's best friend.

As I participated in a town hall in Washington, Illinois with more than 1,000 people in attendance, I heard a reoccurring theme of concern, outrage, disbelief, frustration and fear for what Speaker Pelosi's health care proposal could mean.

The final question of the night came from a young man named Joshua. In a room surrounded by those three or four times his age, young Joshua had the courage to ask me the difficult question if I supported what President Obama wants to do with Healthcare.

I told Joshua that I've spent my first 9 months in office trying to figure out exactly what the President was actually trying to do with health care. It is this precise confusion of goals, conflicting messages and lack of communication from the Majority which has all Americans still trying to figure out exactly what the President and the Speaker are trying to do.

Unfortunately, we've finally learned what they want to do. Tonight, under the cover of darkness, the majority finally passed a health care plan that will raise taxes, raise health care costs, add to our national debt, and hurt America's seniors, families and small businesses. Over half those covered in the bill are done so by expanding entitlements instead of helping them afford insurance. This only exacerbates insurance premiums for ordinary Americans and dramatically increases our nation's debt.

The bill tonight was about expanding the size of government and leading us down the road to a no-choice government-run healthcare system. Instead of working across party lines to pass bipartisan reform, Speaker PELOSI has decided to let the votes against this massive entitlement expansion be the only true thing bipartisan about it.

**HONORING PHILLIP MALIK****HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Phillip Malik. Mr. Malik passed away on October 8, 2009, at the age of 94. His life was remembered by friends and family on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Phillip Malik was born January 1, 1915, in a region of Iran known as Urmia, in the small village of Gengachi. His father was a leader in the village, which was being pursued by marauders with intentions of persecuting all villagers based on their Christian beliefs. They would eventually end their journey in Habbaniya near Baghdad, Iraq. As a young man he survived the Assyrian Genocide and was a manager of the British Officers Club in Baghdad. Mr. Malik set his eyes on the United States, and in 1953 he settled in Chicago, Illinois. Five months later his wife, Maria, and their five children joined him in the United States. They did not like the cold of Chicago, and with a short visit to San Francisco, California, they decided to head west.